Help farm workers on strike! A victory for them will be a victory for working men everywhere. Send food or money to United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, P. O. Box 54, Rio Grande City, Texas.

WAR IN STARR COUNTY

Rangers Arrest Pickets

"Today in America it is sometimes an honor to be in jail." -- Adlai Stevenson

In the latest in a series of outrages, Texas Rangers on Nov. 8 and 9 arrested 11 officers and members of this union in what is developing into a virtual war against the poverty-stricken and downtrodden to crush their aspirations for a decent life.

The 11 valiant strikers, arrested under a "secondary picketing" statute which has repeatedly been declared unconstitutional by the Texas Supreme Court, were held in the Starr County Jail under $1,000 bond, twice the amount of the maximum fine.

The jailed strikers held a hunger strike protesting arrest by the Rangers, who have no jurisdiction in this matter, and against subhuman conditions of the County Jail. Outside the jail scores of fellow union members and sympathizers also staged a hunger strike round-the-clock, as the area of the courthouse was converted into a virtual fortress bristling with guns in an attempt to intimidate the strikers.

As this is being written, the 11 jailed strikers have just been released after a week in jail, after a union attorney put up his personal property as security for the bonds.

CONSPIRACY OF TERROR

Meanwhile, in a growing conspiracy of wealthy growers, county officials and police, Texas Rangers have continued the campaign of intimidation by grilling pickets at the Roma bridge and La Casita Farms in an attempt to frighten them into abandoning their protest of subhuman wages and living conditions and their demand for union contracts and a wage of $1.25 an hour.

TORTURE OF PRISONERS

Reacting viciously to the growing success of the strikers in bringing pressure against the growers to negotiate, county officials closed all windows of the jail and repeatedly refused to allow wives and children to visit the incarcerated. Attorneys for the defendants were unable to contact either the County Judge or the Sheriff (both physicians) to protest. It is noteworthy that although the so-called "secondary picketing" at the Starr Produce packing shed occurred on November 3, the arrests were not made until election day, Nov. 8, when they could no longer effect the outcome of the election. A letter of protest sent to Gov. Connally and Attorney General Carr includes the following:

"These eleven have now been jailed for five days under subhuman conditions and they were jailed by Texas Rangers. . .The Texas picketing law under which these people have been jailed has been declared unconstitutional by the Texas Supreme Court since 1949. . .This law has not been applied to organized labor from 1949 to election day, November 8, 1966. The State courts who are jailing these men have no jurisdiction in the case because the Federal Law governs. The jailing of the strikers is pure intimidation. They will not abandon their strike no matter how many Texas Rangers jail them. The things happening in Starr County today are a throwback to anti-labor oppression of fifty years ago. UFWOC respectfully but firmly demands that you exercise your powers and duties to stop this unlawful oppression of strikers in Starr County."

STATEWIDE PROTEST

Meanwhile, the entire State is being mobilized to protest the Nazi-like reign of terror in Starr County. Telegrams are being sent to Senators and Congressmen, contributions to feed farm workers have begun pouring in, and several members of the Washington press corps have promised to journey to Starr County to tell the entire nation what is happening there.

A THUMBNAIL HISTORY

Sept., 1965	The great Delano grape strike begins in Delano, California.
April, 1966	Victory! The giant Schenley Ranch signs an unprecedented contract with us guaranteeing vineyard workers $1.75 per hour.
May, 1966	The organization of farm workers begins in Starr County, Texas.
June, 1966	700 union members strike in Rio Grande City, protesting wages of 40¢ to 85¢ an hour, and demanding $1.25 and a union contract.
July, 1966	LaCasita Farms, Inc. raises wages 15¢ an hour in an attempt to break the strike; hires "green carders" from Mexico as scabs.
Aug., 1966	We win election at California's largest ranch to represent its 1,000 workers. Our union is granted an organizing charter by the AFL-CIO.
Sept., 1966	The great farm worker march is a huge success as 25,000 people gather in Austin on Labor Day to support Starr County strike and a State Minimum Wage of $1.25 per hour.
Oct., 1966	13 heroic strikers arrested and brutally manhandled by police at Roma Bridge for protesting strikebreakers from Mexico.

HELP SUPPORT A FARM WORKER FAMILY ON STRIKE! JOIN THE THANKSGIVING FOOD CARAVAN!
Bring food or money to pick-up point nearest you, or join caravan!

Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving)--
Food rally at Capitol in Austin

Friday, Nov. 25
6:00 AM Leave Capitol in Austin
7:00 AM San Marcos
10:30 AM San Antonio
12:30 PM Floresville
4:00 PM Beeville (overnight)

Saturday, Nov. 26
7:30 AM Mathis
11:00 AM Corpus Christi
1:00 PM Robstown
2:00 PM Kingsville
3:15 PM Premont
4:00 PM Falfurrias
5:30 PM Raymondville
7:00 PM San Juan (overnight)

Sunday, Nov. 27
7:30 AM Edinburg
8:00 AM McAllen
8:30 AM Mission
11:00 AM Rio Grande City--Courthouse
12:00 noon Buffet Luncheon at Union Hall

United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO
P. O. Box 54 609 N. Flores
Rio Grande City, Texas

RIO GRANDE CITY, TX NOV 22 PM 1966 78582

Henry Anderson
Citizens for Farm Labor
P. O. Box 1173
Berkeley 1, California

HELP SUPPORT A FARM WORKER FAMILY ON STRIKE!

Now that the excitement of the march to Austin has subsided, contributions of food and money have fallen off drastically, yet farm workers' needs continue.

The Texas Labor Movement, in attempting to cope with this pressing problem, has started a new program whereby each local union is asked to adopt one family on strike, and contribute $50 a month for its support until this crucial strike is won. Now that the winter harvest has begun, the union can once more apply pressure against the huge corporate farms it is striking, and if victory is not achieved this winter, it is almost certain to come in the large melon harvest in May and June. But meanwhile striking families must eat! Make checks payable to

United Farm Workers Organizing Committee
P. O. Box 54
Rio Grande City, Texas

FLASH: UFWOC has just won a representation election at DiGiorgio's Arvin Ranch in California and the right to be collective bargaining agent for its 600 workers.

THE FARM WORKERS DESPERATELY NEED:

A registered nurse. Salary: room and board, plus $10 a week.

A doctor to visit Rio Grande City one day a week.

Food Money Office Supplies

Typewriters A 16 mm Movie Projector

VOLUNTEERS who can be self-sustaining & are willing to follow union rules.

Write UFWOC, Box 54, Rio Grande City.

I enclose:

__ $1 for 10 issues of Farm Worker Newsletter

__ $2 for a regular subscription

__ $5 for a sustaining subscription to LUCHA, the farm worker newspaper (1 Year)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Farm Worker Press, Box 621, Rio Grande City